

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. A method executed in a computer system for selecting a multimedia presentation comprising:

5 determining a subset of multimedia presentations in accordance with predetermined criteria;

determining one or more multimedia data items, each of said one or more multimedia data items being an index into a corresponding one of said subset of multimedia presentations;

10 viewing said one or more multimedia data items using a browser;

controlling direction and speed of said one or more multimedia data items viewed;

selecting a first of said one or more multimedia data items; and

transferring control to machine executable code associated with a first of said subset of multimedia presentations having said first multimedia data item as an index.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

presenting said first multimedia presentation by executing said machine executable code.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first multimedia presentation is a for on-line shopping of a product.

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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first multimedia presentation is a video for video-on-demand selection.

5 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first multimedia presentation is a speaker presentation using a plurality of media streams and a first of said plurality of media streams includes said first multimedia data item.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said first multimedia data item is a miniature viewgraph indexing into other media streams that include an audio file, an image file of speaker notes, and a video file of a speaker giving a presentation.

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10 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said viewing one or more multimedia data items includes:
presenting a hierarchical description of the information in an outline area; and
presenting said one or more multimedia data items in a presentation area, said hierarchical description being synchronized with a first temporal arrangement of said one or more multimedia data items in said presentation area.

15 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said multimedia data items are presented in said presentation area using a stacking technique in which successive multimedia data

items are presented slightly overlapping one or more previously presented multimedia data items, and the method further includes:

controlling speed and direction of said one or more multimedia data items presented by stacking and unstacking successively presented multimedia data items in said presentation area.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein said multimedia data items are presented in said presentation area using a scrolling technique in which successive images are presented along a two-dimensional axis, and the method further includes:

controlling speed and direction of said one or more multimedia data items are presented by controlling the direction and speed at which said one or more multimedia data items are presented along said two-dimensional axis.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein said multimedia data items are presented in said presentation area using a three-dimensional presentation technique in which said multimedia data items are presented with a three-dimensional perspective with regard to a display viewpoint at a particular time.

11. The method of Claim 7, wherein some of said multimedia data items includes a group of one or more images having a parent-child relationship in which there is one

parent multimedia data item and one or more child multimedia data items, and the method further includes:

dividing said presentation area into four quadrants;

presenting said parent multimedia data item near a center of said presentation area; and

presenting subsequent child multimedia data items beginning in an upper left quadrant and proceeding to present successive multimedia data items on a clockwise rotation in successive quadrants.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein each of said four quadrants is further divided into four subquadrants, each of said four quadrants having an outermost subquadrant corresponding to an outermost corner of said quadrant with respect to said presentation area, each of said child multimedia data items being presented in an outermost subquadrant associated with a quadrant, an outer corner of said each child multimedia data item being randomly located within said outermost subquadrant.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein each of said multimedia presentations includes at least two media streams, a first media stream being used and index into said second media stream, wherein said first and second media streams are different.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein said second media stream is an audio stream and said first media stream is an image-based medium.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein each of said first and second media streams are the same.

5 16. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
producing a database of indices, each of said indices being a multimedia data item.

17. A method executed in a computer system for selecting a multimedia presentation comprising:

10 determining one or more indices for a multimedia presentation, said multimedia presentation having a first media stream and a second media stream, a portion of said first media stream being a first index into a portion of said second media stream, said first index being one of said one or more indices;

storing information about said one or more indices in a database;

15 displaying multimedia objects in accordance with said information about said indices in said database using a browser;

controlling direction and speed of said multimedia objects displayed;

selecting a first of said multimedia objects; and

invoking a software program for presenting said multimedia presentation having said first multimedia object as an index.

18. The method of Claim 17 further comprising:

5 wherein said software program is a video on demand application, said first multimedia object is a video key frame, and said multimedia presentation includes a video media stream and an audio media stream.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said first media stream is said video media stream and said second media stream is said audio media stream.

10 20. The method of Claim 17, wherein said multimedia presentation includes a viewgraph stream, a video stream, an audio stream, and a text stream.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein said viewgraph stream is said first media stream having a portion used as an index into said video stream, said audio stream and said text stream.

15 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein said text stream includes speaker notes, said video stream includes images of a speaker, said audio stream includes voice recordings of said speaker, and said viewgraph stream includes speaker slides.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein a portion of said viewgraphs are used to uniquely differentiate portions of a presentation by said speaker, said viewgraphs being used to synchronize and index into the other media streams.

5 24. The method of Claim 17, wherein said software program is an electronic commerce shopping application, said first media stream and said second media stream reference a single media stream, said single media stream being an image stream of products for sale.

10 25. A method executed in a computer system for selecting a multimedia presentation comprising:

determining a subset of multimedia presentations in accordance with predetermined criteria;

15 determining one or more multimedia data items, each of said one or more multimedia data items being an index into a corresponding one of said subset of multimedia presentations;

viewing said one or more multimedia data items using a browser to select a multimedia presentation;

controlling direction and speed of said one or more multimedia data items viewed;
and

selecting a first of said one or more multimedia data items associated with said multimedia presentation.

26. The method of Claim 25, further including:

5 transferring control to machine executable code associated with a first of said subset of multimedia presentations having said first multimedia data item as an index.

27. A computer program product for selecting a multimedia presentation comprising:

10 machine executable code for determining a subset of multimedia presentations in accordance with predetermined criteria;

10 machine executable code for determining one or more multimedia data items, each of said one or more multimedia data items being an index into a corresponding one of said subset of multimedia presentations;

15 machine executable code for viewing said one or more multimedia data items using a browser;

 machine executable code for controlling speed and direction of said one or more multimedia data items viewed;

machine executable code for selecting a first of said one or more multimedia data items; and

machine executable code for transferring control to machine executable code associated with a first of said subset of multimedia presentations having said first multimedia data item as an index.

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28. The computer program product of Claim 27, further comprising:

machine executable code for presenting said first multimedia presentation by executing said machine executable code.

29. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein said first multimedia presentation is a for on-line shopping of a product.

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30. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein said first multimedia presentation is a video for video-on-demand selection.

31. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein said first multimedia presentation is a speaker presentation using a plurality of media streams and a first of said plurality of media streams includes said first multimedia data item.

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32. The computer program product of Claim 31, wherein said first multimedia data item is a miniature viewgraph indexing into other media streams that include an audio file, an image file of speaker notes, and a video file of a speaker giving a presentation.

5 33. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein said machine executable code for viewing one or more multimedia data items includes:

machine executable code for presenting a hierarchical description of the information in an outline area; and

10 machine executable code for presenting said one or more multimedia data items in a presentation area, said hierarchical description being synchronized with a first temporal arrangement of said one or more multimedia data items in said presentation area.

15 34. The computer program product of Claim 33, wherein said multimedia data items are presented in said presentation area using a stacking technique in which successive multimedia data items are presented slightly overlapping one or more previously presented multimedia data items, and the computer program product further includes:

machine executable code for controlling speed and direction of said one or more multimedia data items presented by stacking and unstacking successively presented multimedia data items in said presentation area.

35. The computer program product of Claim 33, wherein said multimedia data items are presented in said presentation area using a scrolling technique in which successive images are presented along a two-dimensional axis, and the computer program product further includes:

5 machine executable code for controlling speed and direction of said one or more multimedia data items are presented by controlling the direction and speed at which said one or more multimedia data items are presented along said two-dimensional axis.

36. The computer program product of Claim 33, wherein said multimedia data items are presented in said presentation area using a three-dimensional presentation technique in which said multimedia data items are presented with a three-dimensional perspective with regard to a display viewpoint at a particular time.

37. The computer program product of Claim 33, wherein some of said multimedia data items includes a group of one or more images having a parent-child relationship in which there is one parent multimedia data item and one or more child multimedia data items, and the computer program product further includes:

machine executable code for dividing said presentation area into four quadrants;

machine executable code for presenting said parent multimedia data item near a center of said presentation area; and

machine executable code for presenting subsequent child multimedia data items beginning in an upper left quadrant and proceeding to present successive multimedia data items on a clockwise rotation in successive quadrants.

38. The computer program product of Claim 37, wherein each of said four quadrants is further divided into four subquadrants, each of said four quadrants having an outermost subquadrant corresponding to an outermost corner of said quadrant with respect to said presentation area, each of said child multimedia data items being presented in an outermost subquadrant associated with a quadrant, an outer corner of said each child multimedia data item being randomly located within said outermost subquadrant.

39. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein each of said multimedia presentations includes at least two media streams, a first media stream being used and index into said second media stream, wherein said first and second media streams are different.

40. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein said second media stream is an audio stream and said first media stream is an image-based medium.

41. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein each of said first and second media streams are the same.

42. The computer program product of Claim 27 further comprising:
machine executable code for producing a database of indices, each of said indices
being a multimedia data item.

43. A computer program product for selecting a multimedia presentation
comprising:

machine executable code for determining one or more indices for a multimedia
presentation, said multimedia presentation having a first media stream and a second
media stream, a portion of said first media stream being a first index into a portion of said
second media stream, said first index being one of said one or more indices;

machine executable code for storing information about said one or more indices in
a database;

machine executable code for displaying multimedia objects in accordance with
said information about said indices in said database using a browser;

machine executable code for controlling speed and direction of said multimedia
objects displayed;

machine executable code for selecting a first of said multimedia objects; and
machine executable code for invoking a software program for presenting said
multimedia presentation having said first multimedia object as an index.

44. The computer program product of Claim 43 further comprising:

wherein said software program is a video on demand application, said first multimedia object is a video key frame, and said multimedia presentation includes a video media stream and an audio media stream.

5 45. The computer program product of Claim 44, wherein said first media stream is said video media stream and said second media stream is said audio media stream.

46. The computer program product of Claim 43, wherein said multimedia presentation includes a viewgraph stream, a video stream, an audio stream, and a text stream.

10 47. The computer program product of Claim 46, wherein said viewgraph stream is said first media stream having a portion used as an index into said video stream, said audio stream and said text stream.

15 48. The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein said text stream includes speaker notes, said video stream includes images of a speaker, said audio stream includes voice recordings of said speaker, and said viewgraph stream includes speaker slides.

49. The computer program product of Claim 48, wherein a portion of said viewgraphs are used to uniquely differentiate portions of a presentation by said speaker, said viewgraphs being used to synchronize and index into the other media streams.

50. The computer program product of Claim 43, wherein said software program is an electronic commerce shopping application, said first media stream and said second media stream reference a single media stream, said single media stream being an image stream of products for sale.

51. A computer program product for selecting a multimedia presentation comprising:

- machine executable code for determining a subset of multimedia presentations in accordance with predetermined criteria;
- machine executable code for determining one or more multimedia data items, each of said one or more multimedia data items being an index into a corresponding one of said subset of multimedia presentations;
- machine executable code for viewing said one or more multimedia data items using a browser to select a multimedia presentation;
- machine executable code for controlling speed and direction of said one or more multimedia data items viewed; and

machine executable code for selecting a first of said one or more multimedia data items associated with said multimedia presentation.

52. The computer program product of Claim 51, further including:

5 machine executable code for transferring control to machine executable code associated with a first of said subset of multimedia presentations having said first multimedia data item as an index.

53. A computer program product for selecting a multimedia presentation comprising:

10 means for determining a subset of multimedia presentations in accordance with predetermined criteria;

means for determining one or more multimedia data items, each of said one or more multimedia data items being an index into a corresponding one of said subset of multimedia presentations;

15 means for viewing said one or more multimedia data items using a browser to select a multimedia presentation;

means for controlling speed and direction of said one or more multimedia data items viewed; and

20 means for selecting a first of said one or more multimedia data items associated with said multimedia presentation.

54. The computer program product of Claim 53, further including:

means for transferring control to machine executable code associated with a first
of said subset of multimedia presentations having said first multimedia data item as an
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